

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, IR, IS, EG, SY

SUBJ: IRANIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 10868

1. UNOFFICIAL ISRAELI AMBASSADOR URI LUBRANI CALLED NOVEMBER 17 TO DISCUSS IRANIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS. IN THE AFTERMATH OF SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM'S VISIT TO TEHRAN LUBRANI IS WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT THE ISRAELIS WILL BE SUBJECTED BY THE IRANIANS TO SUBTLE PRESSURES FOR SOME SETTLEMENT ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. HIS READINGS OF WHAT THE IRANIANS HAD TO SAY TO THE SYRIANS DURING THE KHADDAM VISIT WERE INCONSISTENT, AND HE WAS WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT WE HAD ANY PARTICULAR INSIGHTS. MY RESPONSE WAS THAT IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THE SYRIANS HAD TAKEN A HARD LINE WITH THE IRANIANS AND THAT THE IRANIANS HAD CONFINED THEMSELVES LARGELY TO LISTENING. LUBRANI AGREED BUT SAID HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THE IRANIANS HAD AT LEAST POINTED OUT TO THE SYRIANS THAT THEIR RECEPTION IN IRAN WOULD BE MORE FAVORABLE IF THEY FOUND SOME WAY OF REDUCING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THEIR COUNTRY. I TOLD LUBRANI THAT IT WAS MY DISTINCT OPINION THAT THE SHAH WANTED TO CONTINUE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AS HE HAD IN THE PAST AND THAT I FELT THAT IT WOULD BE BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR ISRAEL IN IRAN DURING THE PREDICTABLE FUTURE. POINTED OUT THAT IRANIAN

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FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AND ECONOMIC

AFFAIRS JAFAR NADIM'S APPROACH TO LUBRANI FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLAINING BEFOREHAND IRANIAN VOTE IN THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE BEEN UNLIKELY PRIOR TO THE FINALIZING OF THE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. (FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI TOLD ME LAST WEEK THAT IRANIAN FOREIGN OFFICE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE LOCAL ISRAELIS ON THE ANTI-ZIONIST VOTE ISSUE.)

2. LUBRANI TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WAS GOING TO INCREASE SOMEWHAT ITS PURCHASES OF IRANIAN OIL. THE PRECISE FIGURE FORECAST IS 280 MILLION BARRELS PER ANNUM WHICH IS SAID TO BE SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF ISRAELI REQUIREMENTS. LUBRANI STATED THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WOULD TRY TO GET THE BALANCE OF ITS OIL NEEDS SATISFIED ELSEWHERE, PARTICULARLY IN MEXICO AND DURING THE LATTER HALF OF 1976 FROM THE NORTH SEA FIELDS. LUBRANI'S RECOMMENDATION TO HIS GOVERNMENT IS APPARENTLY BEING FOLLOWED, I.E., THAT ISRAEL SHOULD INCREASE PURCHASES FROM IRAN WITHOUT BECOMING TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON THE IRANIAN SOURCE. THIS IS DESIGNED TO PLEASE THE IRANIANS WITHOUT BECOMING TOTALLY SUBJECT TO PRESSURE THEY MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO EXERT.

3. APROPOS OF SYRIAN ATTACKS ON PRESIDENT SADAT AND THE SINAI AGREEMENT, LUBRANI VOICED THE OPINION BASED ON HIS DAILY LISTENING TO ARAB RADIO BROADCASTS THAT SADAT HAS IN FACT BECOME SOMETHING OF A HERO IN THE ARAB WORLD FOR HIS COURAGE IN MAKING THE AGREEMENT. LUBRANI IS CONVINCED THAT THE NUANCES OF THE VARIOUS BROADCASTS CLEARLY INDICATE THAT SYRIA IS ISOLATED AND THAT OTHER ARAB NATIONS ARE INCREASINGLY IMPRESSED WITH SADAT'S COURAGE AND SAGACITY AS WELL AS HIS SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES WHICH IS REGARDED AS AN UNCOMMON ACHIEVEMENT.

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